

MAINE FARMER AND MECHANIC'S ADVOCATE.

PUBLISHED BY WILLIAM NOYES.

"OUR HOME, OUR COUNTRY, AND OUR BROTHER MAN."

EZRA KIEL HOLMES, Editor.

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Agriculture produces a patriot in the truest acceptation of the word.—Talleyrand.



MAINE FARMER.

The Kennebec Journal, after copying our remarks respecting Agricultural Societies having permanent funds, says:—

These are very good reasons why the Agricultural Societies should have permanent funds; but does it follow that the regular annual amounts would be forthcoming from the sales of each township or half township of land? Would the settlements go on regularly on all these tracts alike, and the requisite sum of money be paid in to each Society as wanted? This seems to be improbable. On the contrary, we apprehend that on some tracts there might be large sales this year and none next—on some, more money than was wanted would be realized, and on some none at all—unless the whole tract were sold in a lump, and the money invested in some other way, there would be nothing like uniformity in the supply of cash; and that many of the Societies, in order to get funds, would have to sell out at once, to some speculator, at a price greatly below the value of the lands. And we are not sure but the original contrivers of this plan had this object in view. It must be understood that the last Legislature put a stop to the sales and grants of townships and large tracts of land, and provided that the State lands should be surveyed into lots, and sold to actual settlers. There are strong reasons for the adoption of this policy. Our young men who take up new lands want it with the timber on it. They don't want lands that have been stripped and wasted of their timber. The great sweeping operations of lumbermen upon the whole townships have been stopped, unless they can get them by some indirect course. A grant of fifteen or twenty townships to Agricultural Societies would enable them to get hold of some of these townships; and if every Society that might be got up should be entitled to a township, the call for townships would be large, for nothing would be easier than for a few speculators to get up a Society, especially if no money were to be raised by individual contributions. The land being obtained, and no revenue accruing from it, it must be sold of course, and the purchasers would stand ready to give something for it.

The Maine Farmer states strongly and truly the difficulties which Societies labor under from fluctuations in their subscriptions. But on the other hand, we should get into worse trouble, we fear, if the State were to give either land or money to Societies which raised no money themselves. The effect, we apprehend, would be a multitude of small Societies, the practical results of which would be of no value. We have now two in this county, and two in Somerset; their efficiency is already weakened by division. Grants of land would multiply their number, without adding to their efficiency, and the management of the lands or the funds arising therefrom would be sources of difficulty, if not quarrel, and defalcation of agents.

Now perhaps grants of land can be so guarded as to obviate all these apprehended difficulties; but to do this the whole matter must be well considered before hand. We do not know but it has been, and will so appear in due time; but certainly it does seem as if the Land Agent could sell the lands of the State to better advantage under the new system, than the separate agents of twenty or thirty different Agricultural Societies, the expenses of each, of whom would be nearly as much annually as the sum wanted by each Society. The argument that the State can spare land, but not money, may be plausible, but as the lands must be sold before the Societies can derive any thing from them, it seems to be just the same thing to the State, since every acre sold by a Society's agent prevents the State from going into the Treasury. If the State keeps its own possession, it can appropriate just such sums as it pleases, and just as long as the money is beneficially used; but if the lands are given outright, and the grant is ever so much abused, it cannot be taken back again. Certainly the land never can come when the farmers of the State will be unable to control its legislation, on this or any other subject. If they are unable, and set themselves about it they can at any time appropriate just as much to Agricultural Societies as they see fit. The only difference in this respect between the two schemes is that if the State continues to hold the lands in its own possession, the farmers, by their representatives in the Legislature, can appropriate just such sums as are needed; but if the lands are distributed among thirty or forty Societies, there is great danger that some of these lands will be squandered, while in every case the funds arising from them will be fluctuating and uncertain.

The granting of townships and half townships to academies and colleges, and the sale of large tracts to individuals, has been a very great inconvenience to settlers, and caused much perplexity in getting roads made, as well as in other matters. Perhaps the Land Agent, in his report, may refer to this subject. We state these objections to granting lands, that the friends of the project may be ready to obviate them when they send in their memorials. We have great confidence in the integrity and the sagacity of many gentlemen who favor the scheme—men who have had a great deal more experience in Agricultural Societies than we have—and we are by no means sure they will not answer all these objections, and all others that may be urged. If they do, we will not only say "Amen!" but we will do what little we can to aid them.

Well, friend Severance, we are always glad to hear you *argue*, whether you are for us or against us. But a word in your ear, good Sir. Haven't you been begging the question a little? borrowing a little trouble which wasn't "in the book?" You seem to talk as if it was a settled point that before the Societies asked, or accepted any lands, if granted, they were to *quitclaim* to the present stipend which they receive from the State. That is, they are to relinquish every thing now granted them by the State, and take as an equivalent a grant of wild lands with which to pursue their regular annual operations. Where did you get "that notion?"

We are not conscious of having said or intimated any thing of the kind, and we are quite sure that you will not find any thing of the kind in the memorials, should they ever come before you. No Sir. It is not intended to let go the present small *foddering* and wait in hungry patience for the plentiful harvest which is to come at some distant future day; that's not the plan. We would say to you, continue the present *alms*, tho' small, in order to sustain present life and action, and at the same time bestow a portion of your lands, which are now lying dormant—a dead weight upon your hands—under such salutary restrictions as your wisdom shall dictate and let the Societies so manage them that they shall ultimately become a strong and permanent fund. Do you understand us clearly now? We want you to understand it fairly, because almost the whole of your "arguement" is based upon a position which we never took and never meant to take.

You observe that "the time never can come when the farmers of the State will be unable to control its legislation, on this or any other subject." You are safe in saying so, but alas! alas! the time has been and even now is, when the farmers of the State do not control its legislation on this or any other subject. Powerful as they are in numbers—powerful as they are in property—powerful as they are, or may be in intellect—they tamely and shamefully bow down and worship at the shrine of a few designing demagogues. We have seen it—we have felt it—we know it. We do not say this as a slur on either of the parties alone, now striving for the mastery, for Heaven knows there are those among them all equally as heartless and as corrupt and as selfish. We well remember when the question of the repeal of the wheat bounty was agitated in the House. All were willing to repeal it, and a majority, *lacking four*, were in favor of giving a respectable amount of money to each county for the exclusive benefit of Agricultural and Mechanic's Societies. These four were wrought upon by a certain individual, who was neither a farmer nor a mechanic and influenced to vote against it, while the very individual who flattered them into an opposite course *voted in favor* of the bill. He voted for it because his constituents were in favor of it, and because he thought his popularity depended upon *appearing* to be in favor of the agricultural interest. That has hitherto been the trouble. The farmers can do as they please, if they would not be continually influenced by some political Judas or other, but act out their own common sense on their own responsibility. Think you the disgraceful scenes which took place in our legislative hall last year would have been acted there, farmers "coughing down" a brother farmer when he rose to defend a measure calculated for their own benefit—if the *leaders*, *aye*, the *political leaders* had not set it on foot? No, Sir. Any one who knows any thing of the way and manner in which things are managed sometimes in such places, knows that no such transaction would ever have taken place.

One thing more, you observe that "the Societies in order to get funds would have to sell out at once to some speculator at a price greatly below the value of the lands. And we are not sure but the original contrivers of this plan had this object in view." To the former part of the remark we have only to say that probably—if the Societies proceeded upon your plan—which they never contemplated—they would do so. To the last clause we answer, that is a gratuitous surmise of your own, and to say the truth, it is rather an ungenerous one, for a generous man like yourself to make. We have had something to do with this plan, and every one knows that we are poor enough in all conscience without being caught in a "land speculation." No, Sir.—We like your caution and circumspection in this matter, but we don't like your begging of questions—your *trussing up* men of straw in order to show your skill in kicking them over—your conjuring up phantoms in order to exhibit your powers of necromancy, or your uttering unjust surmises and "damnable insinuations" in order to "gull the flats." We hope that you will ultimately *come out of the fog* on this question, and quit yourself in its favor like a man.

Is there any Vegetation in Apples

EVERY ONE knows that those kind of apples called "winter apples," are unfit to eat in Autumn when gathered, but after a few months become changed in their taste—their juices essentially altered in quality, and their pulp being very different in many respects from what it was in the fall. Is this brought about by the laws of vegetation or by chemical action of the juices? If it were purely chemical it would seem that the action would commence and end sooner, whereas in some apples it requires the operation of this sort of vegetable life, for a longer that it required for the apple to attain its size from the time of its first formation in the blossom.

Duncan, in his sacred Philosophy of the seasons, considers the action of which we are now speaking, as a sort of vegetation. It is worthy of remark, he observes, that of those [apples] which are destined for future use, several do not ripen on the parent tree, a property which, while it presents a great chemical difficulty, was necessary, in accordance with physical principles, to the preservation of the fruit, which as soon as life becomes extinct must rot. The apple is not less alive than its seeds. Its principle of vitality remains,—one of those inexplicable detachments, like the sap, from the general life, and it continues to act on the fluids which the vessel contains.

Thus does it convert the malic acid into sugar, while in the same manner, various other conversions are effected, not one of which extra organic or common chemistry has been able to perform. These, it is true, are only the opinions of a sagacious man, who does not offer any experiments to support his remarks. The French Academy we believe once offered a large prize for the best essay and experiments on the question, "What are the changes which take place in the apple during its progress to maturity?" We have never seen any answer to the question. Probably however, it was answered

by some of their Chemists or Horticulturists. A correct knowledge of these things would be of practical value in preserving fruit and in hastening or retarding the periods of their maturity.

MORE PEAT.—We have received a specimen of a substance found at the bottom of a peat bog near Hallowell Roads, by a person whom our informant believes is a Mr. Clifford. The substance received, is a compound of clay matter and the carbonaceous matter which exudes from the stratum of peat above. It has been called in some places, "Greasy Marl," although it is not exactly what is known in true marl beds by that name. It however contains no lime, but will nevertheless make an excellent ingredient in a compost for sandy lands.

CLOVER FOR MANURE.—Although the custom of turning in a clover ley for manure is of long standing and very prevalent in many places, and altho' every farmer has heard and knows something about it, yet it is not very much practised in Maine. There are several reasons we suppose, why it has not yet become so prevalent as it should. In the frontier parts it is getting to be an object for farmers to sow their clover on new lands and cut it after it has ripened its seed for the purpose of obtaining it for market; northern clover seed commanding a good price and ready cash sales. The land being new and not exhausted the farmers conceive it more for their interest to save all their clover for this purpose rather than to plow it under, and when it fails, turn the land out to pasture and clear up more for succeeding crops. In the vicinity of towns it is tho't to be more profitable to cut and cart the hay to market and turn other matters into manure or to purchase it from the stables in town. Others think they cannot afford the expense of turning in a good crop of clover, and others are faithless in regard to the advantage to be derived. Some content themselves with plowing under clover stubble, and a few put in the plow when the clover is in its glory and bury it well, where it becomes a magazine of nutriment for future crops, and we have no doubt they reap a rich reward for their generosity to the soil.

Innumerable instances of the profit arising to the farmer from this mode of dressing land could be adduced, and those who have the back volumes of the Farmer will find many accounts of the practice. We wish to call the attention of those farmers who have never tried it to the subject.

Hear what John Loring says.

"Agriculture will never reach its zenith, until the value of grass lands is sufficiently appreciated, and the cultivation of them much better understood. The value of a clover ley, when applied for wheat, is well known. Still most farmers continue frequent mowing, or close pasturing, until the clover is nearly run out. This greatly impoverishes the ley, and unless the soil be rich, the wheat crop is light. The clover plant cannot withstand frequent cutting, even during the first season it is mown. This causes the lateral roots of the plant to become weak, and incapable of holding the tap roots in the ground; and they are thrown out by the frosts of the ensuing winter and spring. The same happens if red clover be pastured, unless a well grown covering of the tops of the grass be preserved; especially to defend the roots and crown of the plant, from the frosts of the ensuing winter and spring. If this plant be thus defended, it will far better withstand, not only the frosts in the winter and spring, but also the injurious heat of the sun.

I will commence it by observing, that the cultivator should never forget that fallow crops ought to be invariably grown on speargrasses or clover leys, whenever it can be done. This will be always practicable, after his grounds have been reduced to a proper system of management.

Both clover speargrasses are excellent for fallow crops; but the latter is best for this purpose, as it may be kept much longer, without danger of the grasses running out. The roots of these grasses, when turned up for crops, seem to sink slower into decay; of course are better calculated to extend the advantages derived from them to succeeding crops; but as reversing the roots of red clover quickly and effectually kills the plant, it forms a much better ley for wheat and other small grain; especially when they are sown broad cast. When the soil is rich, or a sufficiency of enriching manure can be applied for the fallow crop, to insure a luxuriant growth of the grass, this also may operate against growing the same plants on the same soil, without a proper intermediate change in vegetation."

"If the ground be sufficiently rich to grow speargrasses and farm yard manure is plenty, and these grasses sown the cultivator best, the change in vegetation may be readily effected by growing different varieties of them."

Bottle Prophet.

MR. HOLMES:—In answer to several questions which you proposed in a late number of the Maine Farmer in regard to what you were pleased to cognominate a "bottle prophet," I will give his history. He was an 8 ounce vial, filled, say half full of New Rum and a portion (and I believe more than enough to saturate it) of camphor, and corked up. It hung in the kitchen near the back part and was not used much for some years and I think its evaporation could not be much. Temperature did not appear to have any effect on it, it would prognosticate equally as well in January as in dog days. Some four years ago it began to have frequent up and down emaciation, then plethora, or if you please to call it drunkenness and gluttony, so that it was never for any length of time in good health, and in fact much of the time was incapable of prognostication and I gave it up as spoiled by unsteady habits.

From one of your questions, I am led to imagine that you supposed the thickening might arise from evaporation, that is, more camphor in the bottle than

could be dissolved. That is not the case, I think it was always a saturated tincture; & furthermore, it would thicken and subside and vice versa in a few hours at least. I have seen it at noon thickening up and frequently on one side like a cloud, and from what cause I know not it would thicken on the west and northwest side like a cloud, beginning at the bottom and progressing until the whole was in a riled state, and by the time the shower was over it would have subsided and you could not discover the least appearance of camphor.

Since your request I undertook to prepare another prognosticator, I procured some new rum and put in my camphor and hung it up, and directly after we had a smart snow storm but my bottle said nothing about it. I was rather put to my trumps to know why it would not foretell, it might be that the camphor was too Washingtonian to have any thing to do with ardent spirit, but on examination I found the rum was in fault, it was very wicked stuff, it had committed adultery till it was incapable of doing any thing except playing some of its old tricks of throwing people into the gutter, and not able from its bad habits to do much of that. But I shant give it up so, I shall procure some alcohol and see if I cant get the spirit of prophecy into my bottle again. If I do I shall take some pains to commit some of his prophesying to paper as he makes them and not depend too much on memory, and have it handed down by tradition.

Very respectfully, yours J. L. Sargerville.

Farming an Honorable Business.

Farming rightly considered is a high and honorable business. Men cannot be employed in one more honorable or necessary; for out of the ground grows all the food which supports man and beast. The earth is a fruitful mother, from which, in some shape or other, all animals draw their nourishment. Every one who would be wise should keep the above facts in view. He should engrave them on his memory and constantly act with reference to their import. By so doing he will be able to estimate the value of husbandry—by so doing he will be prevented from despising that which the most High hath ordained as an employment, conducive in the highest degree to the health, and indispensable to the support of the life of man. By so doing he will learn to discern the beauty and excellency of the earth, he will study the nature of her various soils, and learn their fitness for the production of different plants. By so doing he will discover the wisdom of the Creator in appointing the changes of seasons and climates, and in assigning to each portion of the earth the task of producing the plants most congenial to it. By such suitable reflections he will learn to submit with fortitude to the toil of labor, even to delight in it as an ordinance of God, designed for the benefit of man, and placed before him as the means of acquiring eminent virtue.

Winthrop, 1843.

Monmouth Teacher's Association.

The Teacher's Association, of Monmouth Academy held its fourth annual meeting at Monmouth Centre, on Saturday, the 24th inst. The meeting was called to order by the President, J. Stacy Esq., and the exercises commenced by a discussion on the following question:—Ought the general outlines of a study to be presented to the mind of the scholar who has had no previous acquaintance with that study? It was argued by the affirmative, that in the affairs of life that we wish to know what we are about, or in other words, that we wish to have a general plan of our work, whether it be in the erection of a building or in the labor of a single day, a person would take no interest in what he had no definite end in view. Just so with the child in the acquisition of knowledge. When he can see the connection between generals and particulars, he would be interested in his pursuit, whether in the school-room or on the play-ground. The principle was the same. The President presented a very important principle, and one that is overlooked, and in consequence of which many wrong conclusions are drawn by teachers as well as parents. He stated it as a principle, that children will classify according to their knowledge of particulars, and in proof, he said, that neither children nor the man of extensive information would remember the outlines of any study or science until a certain number of particulars had previously been made familiar. Studies might differ in this respect. Some might require only such particulars as could be presented at a single lesson, as in Geography, others as Arithmetic, would demand an extended course of study before a generalization should be attempted. It was universally conceded by the Society, that it should be the teacher's great aim to know *when and how* far to carry his classification so as to have the most permanent impression on the mind. Remarks were made by M. Metcalf Esq., P. Southworth, and by the Secretary, all of which were listened to with much interest.

After an adjournment of one hour, an essay was read by Mr. N. T. True, on the relations of Teachers towards each other. Teachers were cautioned not to build their own reputation on that of their predecessors. Prejudice might send forth her thousand tongues, and strive to injure the honest intentions of his predecessor, which the successor should regard with much care. They should also be careful how they listened to remarks made against teachers in adjoining districts. The whole truth is but rarely told. One great object of this Society had been to obtain uniformity in the habits of Teachers, and its good effects had been abundantly manifest in the schools in town. As one evidence, no teacher had been dishonorably dismissed in town for six years past. Much of the difficulty that had arisen in schools, was this want of uniformity.

An interesting essay was then delivered by Mr. Ebenezer Welch, on the common School system, in the State of Illinois. Mr. W. had enjoyed extensive opportunities of becoming acquainted with their system, and of comparing it with that of New England. It is hoped that his essay may be admitted to the columns of the Farmer.

An essay was then read by Mr. P. Southworth, on the importance of conveying the greatest amount of instruction in the fewest words. It was held that it was no sign of a teacher's skill because he could talk a great deal. It was necessary that he should make use of such language as would best engage the attention and not encumber it by a multiplicity of words. By a happy digression, he showed the importance of applying the same principle to our intercourse with each other. That subjects of a solid character should be chosen in preference to those of a light and trifling nature. After a few remarks by different members,

An essay was read by Mr. Wm. B. Snell, on the comparative value of different Arithmetics used in the schools of this State. Owing to the brief notice that he had for preparation he could not notice but few. It was remarked by him in conclusion, and forcibly felt by every teacher, that there was no Arithmetic in the market well adapted to the wants of country primary schools, and to the state of education in New England generally, although every arithmetic might present something of real merit.

An essay was then read by Mr. C. R. Daggett, on the question, whether that teacher can be successful in his calling who indulges in profanity. It was remarked that it might seem strange that such a subject should be proposed for the consideration of the Society, when the laws of the State would not recognize such an individual as qualified to take charge of a school. But it was well known that such teachers were still to be found in many places. Mr. D. said that the teacher who discarded virtuous principles could not be expected to succeed in the government and education of children. Indeed, facts proved this to be the case. The teacher of that class could hardly be found who was increasing in the confidence of community and in his wages, for any length of time. The correctness of his remarks was sensibly felt by the Society. The question was then discussed, whether the state of society demanded the establishment of Normal Schools in this State? by M. Metcalf in the affirmative, and the President in the negative. Want of time prevented a full discussion of this question, which promised much interest to the Society, and was laid over for a future examination and discussion.

The exercises were then closed by an interesting essay by the Rev. Mr. Case, on the best method of communicating moral instruction. He said that the social relations of life, such as the duties of brothers to sisters and children to parents, then towards neighbors and to their superiors, and so on up to their relations to their Maker, might be presented with advantage in every school.

This might be done by familiar lectures, by reading from some work on the subject, or by introducing them as text books, or what might be still better, by giving familiar lectures during the winter evenings, when parents and children might attend. He thought that singing might be introduced with advantage. Some discussion arose on this point. Mr. Daggett said that parents would object to its introduction in school houses. Mr. True remarked that he had introduced it into several schools, some years since, with the happiest results. His course was to spend the time allotted for recess to that purpose. The scholars might remain in the school-room, or retire as they chose. The greater part of them would remain, and in this way many tunes would be learned and much interest taken, and he would venture to say that much less clothing was worn out by the children than would otherwise have been, and much quarrelling prevented.

The Society then adjourned sine die. This Society, although comparatively and designedly quiet in its operations, has done much to improve the state of primary schools in this vicinity. A more enlightened policy is exhibited on the part of parents and a gradual though healthy change is evident. Teachers are beginning to find that an interchange of views and an exhibition of their different modes of communicating instruction in Societies for this purpose, will add much to their previous knowledge and better prepare them for their arduous, and in too many cases, thankless duties.

Produce of five Acres of Land.

To the Editor of the New England Farmer:—
Though there is much of romance in the accounts sometimes published of large crops, so that a sober-minded man hardly knows how much deduction to make from them in order to believe any part, yet it is also true that facts in agriculture, as well as in other matters, are often stranger than fiction. I send you the following statement of the produce of a plot of land measuring 5 acres and 1-6 rods, for the past year, owned and cultivated by Mr. Joshua Tappan, in Newbury, county of Essex. I was on the piece in October, and from what I saw of the crops harvested, independent of his own statements, I have no doubt of the correctness of the yield as given by him.

Produce of the Lot.	
1 ton of hay, worth	\$12 00
66 bush. corn,	44 00
42 do. oats,	12 00
6 1-2 tons beets,	33 00
273 bush. carrots,	45 00
12 do. parsnips,	3 00
2 do. ruta bagas,	3 25
4 do. French turnips,	4 00
42 do. flat do.,	4 20
6 do. cabbages,	50 00
274 do. potatoes,	51 80
122 do. onions,	40 00
3600 loose cabbage heads,	36 00
1761 good cabbages for market,	26 00
1 1-2 bush. sunflower seed,	1 50
1 peck caraway seed,	4 00
1-2 peck cabbage seed,	6 00
1-2 do. turnip seed,	3 00
40 lbs. carrot seed,	17 00
20 do. onion seed,	8 00
2 bush. beet seed,	15 00
4 do. peas,	26 00
2 do. beans,	3 00
120 lbs. sage,	12 00
10 lbs. hops,	8 00
10 bush. tomatoes,	7 00
11 do. apples,	4 50
4 dolls. worth rhubarb,	4 00
2 dolls. worth asparagus,	2 00
\$405 65	

A. W. Dones.

Hamilton, Dec. 29, 1842.

The prices annexed to the above articles are given by the editor, and not by Mr. Dodge. We have put the sums low, generally, and some of them probably are less than Mr. Tappan sold the marketable part of his crops for. But every one acquainted with farming, well knows that most crops have a refuse, unsaleable portion. This portion is included usually in the gross amount of crop, but cannot be sold for much. For this reason, we must put prices low, or we shall mislead many readers.

The stover, or corn fodder, is not included in the above: it probably was worth from 12 to 15 dollars. As the quality of the articles was unknown to us, we probably have hit wide from the true mark in many instances. Four hundred dollars worth of products from five acres of land, when prices are low as at present, is a large amount.—N. E. Farmer.

Poultry better than Pork or Beef.

In this age of improvement in the production of animal and vegetable food, if there is any good reason why all the science, skill and enterprise of agriculturists, editors, chemists and philosophers, should be applied to the cultivation and refinement of one or two classes of animals, to the exclusion of others as good by nature as they are, we should like to know it. The hog and the bullock, dubbed with the English titles of Berkshire and Durham, seem to walk over the land with a sort of John Bull swagger, that has commanded all attention, and left all their brute brethren in their uncultured native deformity; while those foreign titled gentry have, in the eyes of some, become absolute perfectionists. Now, in the language of our declaration of rights, "we hold this truth to be self-evident," that (by their constitution) they are all created equal.

We are aware that the noble Berkshires, by their elaine and stear, have kindled up a great light in the West, (which we hope may dispel the black cloud of "reputation" which hovers over that region,) and are about to monopolize all the care and labor of the farmers thereabouts; but we can see no reason why the delicate feathered race should thereby be debarred from sharing in the benefits and perfectionisms of cross breeding, in-and-in breeding, and all other scientific advancements in the world. The noble and ancient family of Chautauque, whose elaine note has been the world's time-piece ever since Peter denied his Master, and has never failed to sound the approach of every rising sun; the bird that saved old Rome from conflagration by her warning voice in the dead of night—shall these lose their old established name, and give place in man's affections to herds of swine, and the sturdy bulks of Bashan? What are all their uncouth grunts and frightful bellowings about the farmer's cottage, compared with all the music of the cheerful chirping, chattering, cackling, crowing, gobbling, quacking, squeaking, squalling, with which his poultry yard resounds from day to day?

But to come more to actual matters of fact, we think this branch of the farmer's concern is deserving of more attention than it has generally received. The profit derived from a well arranged, well managed poultry yard, is greater, in proportion to the investment, than that of any other stock, bees excepted. More attention has been devoted to poultry in the vicinity of Philadelphia, than any other part of our country. The Bucks County poultry have acquired a good degree of celebrity, even in the New York market, where they are sometimes found in abundance. The acre, however, but moderate layers; but their eggs are large and well flavored. Yet they are not considered equal to our dung-hill fowl in all respects.

The Dorking fowl stands first in the estimation of those who have raised them. They weigh from 5 to 8 pounds. Their bodies are large and better proportioned than any others, being long, full, and well fleshed in the breast. Have short legs, and beautiful plumage, with five, instead of four toes; are good layers, good sitters, and good nurses. Their eggs are large, clear white, and of excellent quality. When caponed, in the English custom, they weigh from ten to twelve pounds. Mr. L. F. Allen, of Buffalo, to whom we are indebted for the Dorking history, has them for sale.

Our object in writing this article at this time, is chiefly to suggest to our Agricultural Societies the propriety of offering liberal premiums for the best specimens of the various kinds of poultry, at their next annual fairs. We need say nothing in favor of the richness and delicacy of this luxury of the table. Good premiums will soon bring on new species and valuable improvements in this, as in any other branch of agriculture.—Conn. Far. Gaz.

Artificial Manures.

A Mr. Bommer, of Connecticut, has discovered a process of rotting down straw and other vegetable matters rapidly—of making three or four tons of manure from half a ton of straw, &c. &c., and he has patented the process. Various testimonials are furnished from respectable sources, showing that his discovery is valuable, and that he accomplishes all that he promises.

We have taken some pains to get at facts enough in this matter to enable us to judge whether he has discovered any thing worth knowing—but we remain much in the dark: our private correspondence upon the subject elicits no satisfactory answer.—That Mr. B. contrives to excite great fermentation in heaps of coarse vegetable matters and to decompose them rapidly was shown undoubtedly at Albany, and the same probably has been shown at many other places. But we cannot learn the expense of the process. We think it is about time to complain of Mr. B. for not letting the agricultural world know exactly how he proceeds. All that is peculiar to his mode is said to be secured to his use by patent—let us then know what the peculiarities are, in order that we may judge whether they are worth the ten, twelve, fifteen, or twenty dollars charged for the privilege of using them on one's farm. Mr. B. and his agents must lie under the suspicion of being willing to sponge the farmers—to sell rights for more than they are worth, if they do not tell us the whole story. Were not the use of the peculiarities secured by law to the discoverer, not a word of complaint could be uttered; but as the matter now stands, our confidence that any thing valuable to the public has been found out, is growing less and less. So much for Mr. Bommer.

In the Delaware Journal, we find the following:—Whether this discovery is also patented, we know not; if it is, then let us have the whole story. Let us know what the *something* is, four dollars worth of which, will in a month, change a thousand loads of common vegetable matters into a measure of no mean value, a very strong and valuable kind. No man will believe the story upon the assertion merely of the inventors, and the witnesses to the opening of the heaps. If Mr. Bommer or Messrs. Gouldin & Buckley, have discovered any thing valuable, we are perfectly willing that they shall be well paid for the information they can impart; but if they have secured themselves by patents, they will profit more by a frank and public exposition of the whole process, than by such reservations as create suspicions that they are willing to humbug the tillers of the soil—willing to sell rights to do what will be as expensive as the old and known processes of manure making. We are unwilling to give a copper for a right to do, we know not what—nor can we advise any one else to purchase the privilege of trying these methods until the discoverers shall have the frank-

ness to let us know distinctly what they have discovered.

When they shall do this, we will look at the processes candidly, and if they shall seem to us valuable we will say so. Until the discoverers are more explicit we shall look upon them with suspicious eyes.

The following is the article alluded to from the Delaware Gazette:

INTERESTING TO FARMERS.

Messrs. John Goulet and George H. Buckley, have advertised to the public that they have discovered means whereby as much compost for enriching poor, and renewing exhausted lands, can be made in the short space of twenty-five or thirty days, as any farmer can desire. They say their preparation is simple and easy, and that the ingredients composing the vegetable or other matter, of which the compost is to be made, will cost only four dollars for every one thousand cartloads.

"Certificates from highly respectable gentlemen in Prince George county, who were witnesses to experiments made there, completely establish the utility of the discovery."

"On the 6th day of June last, Mr. Goulet constructed on the farm of Mr. George B. C. Vetter, near Hadenburg, a pile composed of small brush, green and dry weeds, tobacco stalks, corn cobs, corn stalks, leaves from the woods, dry straw and sawdust, which was opened on the 4th day of July ensuing, in the presence of eleven other gentlemen, who certify that they 'examined the same, and found the mass decomposed and converted into a manure of apparently a very strong and valuable kind.' The change from litter to compost, it will be seen, was effected in the brief space of 28 days."

"The discovery is really an important one, and the man who will not improve his land at the cheap rate the advertisers hold out, deserves to make short crops."

"Should any of our friends in this county try Messrs. Goulet & Buckley's method, we will be thankful if they will communicate their opinion of it to us. The inventors of it are at this time in Baltimore, and have formed a bank of materials at No. 20 Futaw street, where persons wishing further information on the subject can obtain it."—*New England Farmer.*

FEEDING STOCK.

We have recently been looking over a chapter by Henry Stephens, of Scotland, on "Rearing and Feeding Cattle on Turnips." In this country, we feed more upon hay and grain than is common in England or Scotland, and the processes there approved, are not necessarily good with us. As matter of fact, we will mention that the early morning meal should be large. At mid-day the troughs should be again replenished, and again before day-light is gone. "The quantity given at the evening meal partly depends upon the state of the moon; for cattle, as well as sheep, will always feed during the night in moon-light. From this fact I conclude, that if a light were placed beside cattle, they would also feed during the long winter nights, and of course fatten quicker." Our Yankee cattle will feed in the nights without the aid of a lamp.

One point insisted upon by Mr. Stephens is, regularity in regard to time of feeding. This is probably highly important and worthy of more attention than is usually given to it by our feeders. He deems it important that the cattle-man should begin to feed at the same minute, not only each morning, but at each of the three feedings of the day.

This regularity he calls "the chief secret in the successful treatment of cattle."—*New England Farmer.*

MECHANIC'S ADVOCATE.

An intelligent class can scarce ever be, as a class, vicious, never, as a class, indolent. * * * The new world of ideas; the new views of the relations of things; the astonishing secrets of the physical properties and mechanical powers disclosed; the well informed mind present attractions, which unless the character is deeply sunk, are sufficient to counterbalance the taste for frivolous or corrupt pleasures.—Everett.

A Phillippine on our National Policy

AND A HACK AT THE POLITICAL PRESS.

FRIEND HOLMES:—Our political and financial affairs seem to be laboring under a singular complication of maladies, although every one knows of an infallible remedy and seems anxious to prescribe it. And I, among the rest, having traced the derangements of some of the vital functions of the body politic to causes which others have overlooked, and being moved by a sincere regard for the best interests of the "dear people," feel a restless desire to "show my opinion." Perhaps however you will rule that I am out of order, though you have kindly opened your columns to the advocates of "both sides" of the great question on which the community is so much divided; for I go against both sides, at least, against the manner in which "both sides" are generally discussed.

Whenever any Reform of a moral character is stated, if, in the prosecution of it, a single degree of warmth is manifested, the more prudent part of the community immediately raise a great hue and cry about "ultraism" and "extremes," and read us a homily on the danger of reaction, and the sad effects of disunion among the friends of the cause.

But in the cause of our common country, to which we all ought to be friendly, we see two parties, both of which claim to be exclusively so, planting themselves upon the very brink of the extremes, opposing each other in every thing and apparently vying with each other in scurrility and vituperation.

I impute this course to no sinister motives I believe there are "good men and true" in both parties, and that there are a due proportion of unprincipled knaves in both, we must admit, if we place any reliance upon the party oracles themselves. Their motives doubtless are all pure. But they both have such undiminished confidence in their own integrity and skill, and such incontestable evidence of the utter want of principle and every other qualification, that they consider themselves called upon by every thing sacred and valuable in our institutions to pursue this course—to resort to every expedient, no matter what, on our side to retain, and on the other, to obtain the reins of government. In order to effect this, both parties find it necessary occasionally to win over some of their opponents to their "way of thinking." Then we have a specimen of the "moral suasion" which some guardians of the public peace extol so highly on certain other occasions. This is reciprocated with wonderful liberality. It is often, "you lie," and "you lie;" you are a

knave," and "you are a villain;" "you are a fed," and "you are a loco."

That this course is perfectly justifiable, we shall readily perceive, if we consider for a moment, that any persons who will not discard their own judgements & be won over to their opponents by such arguments, must deserve to be branded with the most opprobrious epithets that the grossest perversion of any language can furnish.

That there may be a choice in the creeds of the two parties I am ready to admit.—But what then?—why,—we are told by both parties, to "adhere with unflinching devotion to the party whose principles and leading measures in our opinion, are most correct." Very well then,—we will all enlist, according to our several predilections and exert every energy of body and mind to bring that party of our choice into power. They find every thing "out of joint," and commence the work of reform in earnest, and sweep every thing by the board. After a while perhaps we get our "porridge dish right side up."

In the mean time, the vanquished party, many of whom we must admit are as honest as their opponents, at least those of them who were too faithful to their principles to be persuaded to join their "enemies," are marshalling their hosts in order to upset our dish and substitute a better one. By the rapid march of improvement, they are enabled at the next campaign to raise a higher pressure of excitement, and overturn all that had been done by their opponents and begin anew once more. That this has been our policy, or rather our folly, will not be denied, and it requires not much logic to prove that, persisting in this course, it is as preposterous to think of enjoying permanent prosperity, as it would in a farmer who should be all summer undecided as to which of two enclosures to pasture and which to mow, and shift his cattle from one to the other every week till snow flies.

While this vacillating policy is pursued, it is evident from the nature of things, that the business operations of the country cannot assume a healthy tone.

So long as capitalists and business men generally can have no assurance of any thing, except that the measures adopted by our party, this year, will be repealed by the other party next year, the interests of all classes must suffer, except that of political quacks who keep up a demand for their nostrums by fanning the coals of party strife and animosity; thus perpetuating a feverish state of excitement in the public mind, as incompatible with the genius of our institutions as it is with reason and common sense.

Under an elective government, where all have an equal voice in shaping their national policy, what one thing can be of more vital importance than that the sovereign people be left free to survey the whole field, to look at the wants of the country under every exigency and to weigh every measure with their reason & judgements unbiased and untrammelled by prejudice and party animosity. But as one has justly said, "the judgement of the country is in abeyance, its passions and its prejudices have become the fountains of its policy." And the bitter fruits which these have yielded, we have all been accustomed to charge exclusively upon one or the other of the contending parties. Admit that the political creed of one party is better adapted to the wants of the country than the other, and if permanently adopted by the people, would better serve their interests, what does it avail? It never has been thus adopted for many years; and there is a moral certainty that under the present state of things, neither ever will become the settled policy of the country, but merely of the party during its brief reign, or until expediency dictates a change in order to secure the power.

That differences of opinion on such matters will exist when people enjoy the freedom of thought, is to be expected. It may also be expected that these differences, especially on local matters will sometimes excite so much interest as to lead to distinct party organizations. But when party spirit reigns supreme and contemplates our country only as a battle field, when the leading—all absorbing question is, which of the two parties shall triumph? and treat their vanquished opponents as enemies of their country. We may be assured that we are abusing the precious boon of civil liberty which was the price of our Fathers' blood. And to look to the temporary triumph of either party for a remedy for our present embarrassments, only shows our madness and folly.

My imagination may have exaggerated these difficulties; but how, I ask, is it possible for the interests of any country to prosper under such a fluctuating policy? And what tendency have the party presses to harmonize the jarring elements, and to unite the people in sustaining any policy of government, while laboring day and night to widen the breach and increase the alienation which already exists among our citizens?

If there is a single ray of hope for a brighter day ahead, may we not expect, as the first harbinger of that day, a disposition on the part of the people,—the common people, not the "wise ones," to rebuke both parties and to meet as friends, not as enemies, and "reason together" not on any single question which has been made the hobby of a party for the time being, but upon the question,—"*what does the anomalous crisis at which our country has arrived demand?*"

This it seems to me, would be taking the

first step towards the "altar of our country."

But it will be said, that "the country will be divided into parties, and the many will be led by the few, in whatever course they may choose to pursue."

Very well then; if "we the people" will consent to be duped by our political quacks, office holders and office seekers and party presses, who are keeping up this game at our expense, let us pocket the fruits of such a course bitter as it is, and have no grumbling.

But I regard as a favorable omen the fact, that they are beginning to lose the confidence of the "dear people." And I have no doubt but the only reason why more of the rabid political partizan papers are not discontinued, and yours or some other one that is worth reading, taken in its stead, is because money is so intolerably scarce that in thousands of cases "*all arrears can't be paid.*"

I don't wish to be understood as holding the immediate conductors of the press alone, responsible for the character of their papers. Their papers have been such as the spirit of the times have demanded; & all who have assisted in sustaining them in their present character either by contributions or their patronage must come in for a full share of responsibility. Thanks to my inability to do any thing for their support in any way; it has doubtless saved me many a lashing of conscience.

I am done for the present. But perhaps some knight of the quill may retort, and say, that I manifest a spirit similar to that which I have been censuring.—

Well—it is only the re-action of this intoxicating, new school patriotism, which seems to have completely destroyed the equilibrium of the public mind, (for I perceive the symptoms are not peculiar to my own case.) I think however when we shall all have disengaged it, we shall all feel better and begin to recover. E. FAIRFIELD.

Up East, Dec. 1842.

To the Mechanics of Maine.

The Mechanics' Association of this town have chosen the undersigned, a committee to extend an invitation to the Mechanics of this State, requesting them to assemble in General Convention in this town, the approaching Summer.

We accordingly invite, by the publication of this notice, the Mechanics of the State of Maine to meet us in Convention in Gardiner, on the 30th of August next, for the purpose of adopting such measures as will most effectually ELEVATE THE MECHANIC.

Our Brethren may rely upon every effort being made for their comfort while here, and our Association will do all in their power to make the meeting useful and interesting.

H. B. HOSKINS,
WM. PALMER,
J. N. TUCKER,
J. BERRY JR.,
CHAS. A. ROBBINS,
JOHN WEBB,
P. C. HOLMES.

Gardiner, Jan. 2, 1843.

Philosophy in Sport.

CHAPTER I.

(Continued.)

It may be here necessary to present the reader with a short sketch of the character of a person, who will be hereafter found to perform a prominent part in the little drama of Overton Lodge.

The Rev. Peter Twaddleton, Master of Arts, and Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, for we must introduce him in due form, was about fifty-two years of age, twenty of which he had spent at Cambridge, as a resident Fellow of Jesus College. He had not possessed the vicarage of Overton above eight or nine years; and, although its value never exceeded a hundred and eighty pounds a year, so limited were his wants, and so frugal his habits, that he generally contrived to save a considerable portion of his income, in order that he might devote it to purposes of charity and benevolence; but his charity was not merely of the hand, but of the heart; distress was unknown in his village; he fed the hungry, nursed the sick, and cheered the unfortunate. His long collegiate residence had imparted to his mind several peculiar traits, and a certain stiffness of address and quaintness of manner which at once distinguish the recluse from the man of the world; in short, as Shakspeare expresses it, "*he was not hack-nayed in the ways of men.*" His face was certainly the very reverse of every thing that could be considered "good-looking," and yet, when he smiled, there was an animation that redeemed the irregularity of his angular features; so benevolent was the expression of his countenance, that it was impossible not to feel that sentiment of respect and admiration which the presence of a superior person is wont to inspire; but his superiority was rather that of the heart than of the head; not that we would insinuate any deficiency in intellect, but that this moral excellencies were so transcendent as to throw into the shade all those mental qualities which he possessed in common with the world. He entertained a singular aversion to the mathematics, a prejudice which we are inclined to refer to his disappointment in the senate-house; for, although he was what is termed at Cambridge, a "*reading man*," after all his exertions he only succeeded in obtaining the "*wooden spoon*," an honour which devolves upon the last of the least of the "*junior optimes*."

Whether this arose from any defect in his state, never having had an opportunity of verifying our suspicions by a manual examination of his erasings. He was, however, well read in the classics, and so devoted to the works of Virgil that he never lost an opportunity of quoting his favourite poet; and it must be admitted, that although these quotations so generally pervaded his conversation as to become tiresome, they were often apposite, and sometimes even witty. He had a happy knack of applying passages in a sense of which the poet could never have dreamt, and yet so pertinently, that it really appeared as if they had been intended for the occasions on which they were cited; but notwithstanding the delight which he experienced in a *lusus verborum* in the Latin language of such contradictory materials was he composed, that his antipathy to an English pun

was so extravagant as to be truly ridiculous. This peculiarity has been attributed, but we speak merely from common report, to a disgust which he contracted for the species of spurious wit, during his frequent intercourse with the Jhanians, a race of students who have, from time immemorial, been identified with the most profligate class of punsters. Be this, however, as it may, we are inclined to believe that a person who resides much amongst those who are addicted to this vice, unless he quickly takes the infection, acquires a sort of constitutional insusceptibility, like nurses, who pass their lives in infected apartments with perfect safety and impunity. His favourite, and we might add his only pursuit, beyond the circle of his profession, was the study of antiquities. He was, as we have already stated, a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, had collected a very tolerable series of ancient coins, and possessed sufficient critical acumen to distinguish between *Atic arago* and the spurious *verdure* of the modern counterfeit. Often had he undertaken an expedition of a hundred miles to inspect the interior of an ancient barrow, or to examine the mouldering fragments of some newly discovered monument; indeed, like the connoisseur in cheese, blue-mould and decay were the favourite objects of his taste, and the sure passports to his favour; for he despised all *living testimony*, but that of worms and maggots. A coin with the head of a fitting sovereign passed through his hands with as little resistance as water through a sieve, but he grasped the head of an *Antonine* or *Orho* with insatiable and relentless avarice. Mr. Twaddleton's figure exceeded the middle stature, and was so extremely slender as to give him the air and appearance of a very tall man. He was usually dressed in an old-fashioned suit of black cloth, consisting of a single-breasted coat, with a standing collar, & deep cuffs, and a flapped waistcoat; but so awkwardly did these vestments conform with the contour of his person, that he might have supposed them the production of those Laputan tailors who wrought by mathematical principles, and held in sovereign contempt the illiterate fashions of their customers; although it was whispered by some of the loquacious spinsters in the village that the aforesaid mathematical artists were better acquainted with the angles of the Seven Dials, than with the *squares* of the west end. They further surmised that the vicar's annual journey to London, which in truth was undertaken with no other object than that of attending the Anniversary of the Society of Antiquaries, on Saint George's day, was for the laudable purpose of recruiting his wardrobe. If the coat, with its struggling and disproportioned suburbs, possessed an amplitude of dimensions which ill accorded with the slender wants of his person, this misapplied liberality was more than compensated by the rigid economy exhibited in the *rather* part of his costume, which evidently had not been designed by a contemporary architect; that vestment which is never alluded to in polished society but through the medium of ingenious circumlocution, stuck as closely to the part it was destined to protect, and as faithfully represented it, as the most zealous member ever adhered to the interests of an independent borough. Not so his shoes which for the accommodation of those unwelcome parasites, vulgarly called *corns*, were constructed in the form of a battle-dore, and displayed such an unbecoming quantity of leather that, as Ned Hopkins, a subaltern of the village ale-house, observed, "however economical their person might appear, he was undoubtedly supported in extravagance."

In a village like Overton where resided no less than seven disordered old maids, this joke against the vicar's understanding was not likely to be lost; nor did the natural association between tithes and "*corn-bugs*" escape the observation of Hopkins, but was repeated with various other allusions of equal piquancy, to the no small annoyance of the reverend gentleman, and, as he declared, to the disparagement of his cloth. And it may be here observed, that the aforesaid vestals had long proclaimed open rebellion against their worthy priest; his manners, they asserted were coarse and vulgar, his habits morose and unsocial, and his sermons mere chips and porridge; but the true cause of this inveterate sprang from a deeper and more secret source; he had inveighed, in terms of better sarcasm, against the uncharitable practice of backbiting; his liberality was considered as a reflection upon their penuriousness; and his merited popularity in the village, as detraction from their own assumed consequences. Miss Kitty Ryland had, moreover, if Fame spoke the truth, a still more powerful motive for her hatred, *Spreta injuria formæ*. As Mr. Twaddleton would have doubtless expressed it, had he ever alluded to the affair, but to his credit be it recorded, that he was never heard to throw out the slightest insinuation upon the subject. Nor did he condescend to notice, nor indeed, appear conscious of the meaning of the various invectives, in which Mr. Seymour, with his accustomed pleasantry, would frequently indulge. On one of these occasions he placed a tall cruet of sugar before the vicar, observing, that it looked very sweet at the squat vinegar bottle that stood near it. It was admitted by those who were acquainted with the personages, thus represented, that the similitude, as far as it went, was perfect. The worthy vicar was, in truth, a tall casket, brimful of every thing that was sweet; and it must be acknowledged, that Miss Kitty, who was a little squat figure, might with equal propriety be said to contain no small quantity of acid, which her age had not mellowed. The vicar, however, appeared insensible to the joke, although Mrs. Seymour maintained that this expressive pantomime was not lost upon him, for she had observed a cloud pass over his brow, as he hastily pushed away the sugar, and substituted the pepper castor in its place. We are inclined to coincide with Mrs. Seymour in her opinion; and, if the affair had been correctly reported, it will add much probability to the conjecture; for, it is said, that, upon some conference of the vicar with Miss Kitty, the artless lady misconstrued a passing expression of friendly kindness into a declaration of a more tender nature, and accordingly breathed in soft accents her ready compliance, which so astonished, offended and incensed our hero, that his indications of indignation amounted to something very like fury; and the squat vinegar bottle found, to her dismay, that she had been ogling a castor which contained pepper instead of sugar. But let us return to our party.

The injury of a rejected suit. En. 31.

After the evening repast had been concluded, Tom proposed a ramble through the shrubbery. He was anxious to revisit the scene of his former sports; and Louisa readily met his wishes, for she was also desirous of showing him the botanical clock, which had been planned and completed, since his absence. Mr. Seymour accompanied his children, and as they walked across the lawn, Tom asked his papa whether he remembered the promise he had made him on quitting home for school, that of furnishing him with some new amusements during the holidays.

"I perfectly remember," said his father, "the promise to which you allude, and I hope that you equally well recollect the conditions with which it was coupled. When your mamma gave you a copy of Mrs. Marcet's instructive Dialogues on Natural Philosophy, I told you that after you had studied the principles which that work so admirably explains, you would have but little difficulty in understanding the philosophy of toys, or the manner in which each produced its amusing effects; and that, when the midsummer holidays commenced, I would successively supply you with a new amusement, whenever you could satisfactorily explain the principles of those you already possessed. Was not that our contract?"

"It was," exclaimed Tom, with great eagerness, "and I am sure I shall win the prize, whenever you will put my skill to a trial; at which I hope my mamma and sisters will be present."

"Certainly," replied Mr. Seymour, "and I trust that Louisa and Fauny, who are of an age to understand the subject, will not prove uninterested spectators. Little John, too, will profit by our scheme; for, as I shall necessarily require for illustration, certain toys which can scarcely afford any amusement to a boy of your age and acquirements, it is but fair that they should be transferred into his hands."

"Thank you! thank you! dear papa," was simultaneously shouted by several voices, and the happy children looked forward to the morrow, with that mixed sensation of impatience and delight which always attend juvenile anticipations.

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

ORDINATION IN WINTHROP.—We intended to mention in our last, that the ordination of Mr. Foster, Pastor of the Universalist Church in this village, took place on the 29th ult.

The services, conducted by Rev. Messrs. Stetson, Drew, Smith, Gilman, and Bailey were very impressive and interesting. We liked the Charge, delivered by Mr. Bailey, right well; because he told them the truth in so plain a way that they could neither mistake, misunderstand or deny it. The music was excellent. We are no musician, and don't dare to comment upon it much—but there was one excellence in it. We could hear and distinguish every word, and were not obliged to get a book and look sharp to find out what the Choir were singing.

SEVING WONDERS.—Bro. Drew, of the Banner, has spied a wonder in our paper of the 31st ult.—Hear him.

"There is a wonder in the last Maine Farmer—a reasonable sermon from an orthodox minister, Rev. David Thurston of Wintthrop. It is worth circulating. We shall give it a place hereafter—bating the parts which contain false doctrine. Mr. T. is an honest man, and more deserving the D. D. than some of his brethren who have succeeded in electioneering for it at some of the 'two penny' Colleges in the land."

And if there isn't a "wonder" in the Banner now, we are *wondrously* mistaken. Bro. Drew complimenting an orthodox clergyman for one of his sermons. Good! if you should live a thousand years longer, old friend, you would be as "*liberal*" as the rest of us.

TIMOTHY L. JENNISON, Esq., has been appointed Post Master at North Dixmont, vice Ebenezer Jennison, Esq. deceased.

Governor's Message.

To the Members of the Senate and House of Representatives: I congratulate you upon the highly favorable circumstances under which you have assembled. May not one mode of expressing a sense of gratitude on our part, for the great and numberless blessings of Providence, be happily found in a quickened diligence and increased faithfulness in the discharge of our public trusts?

For a particular statement of the condition of our finances, I refer you to the report of the Treasurer. It gives me pleasure to be able to say, that, notwithstanding the embarrassments of the times, and the considerable falling off in the estimated revenue from the public lands, the interest on the public debt, with some ten thousand dollars of the principal, and every other legal claim upon the treasury during the past year, has been promptly paid. To accomplish this, in part, it is true, a somewhat onerous tax was assessed the last year. But the good sense and patriotism of the people will never revolt at the payment of a tax which they see to be necessary to maintain the faith and credit of the State, and to support and economical administration of the Government.

The funded debt of the State is now about \$1,700,000. That portion of it which was contracted to defray the expense of defending our frontier from invasion, and protecting the public property in 1839, it is expected will soon be restored to us by the General Government. The remainder, incurred for the payment of bounties on the production of wheat and corn, and to provide for the ordinary expenses of government for a series of years without the assessment of any tax, will have to be provided for in some other way. That it should be provided for, though obvious enough, I cannot avoid earnestly pressing upon your attention. We see how public debt is depressing the mighty tyranies, and checking the progress of some of our sister States in the West. Improving by such a lesson, let us endeavor to be rid of ours as soon as practicable.

"That a national debt is a national blessing" I hold to be a political heresy of the most dangerous character. If in some countries a public debt, by its extensive ramifications and combination of interests, is made to strengthen the hands of power, and to prevent revolutions which a grinding tyranny would otherwise produce, such arguments have no application here. With us, government is not an usurpation. It is not a power adverse to that of the people, but is a voluntary institution of their own. It is, in fact, a part of the people themselves, having, with them, identical interests and common objects. The enjoyment of equal rights, a common participation in the choice of public officers, the sentiment of patriotism, a general diffusion of intelligence, and the prevalence of a sound morality, are far better guaranties for the stability of government, than any that merely mercenary interests can afford. Here, a large permanent public debt has no redeeming influences. It is essentially adverse to our true policy and principles—being incompatible with the highest political advancement and prosperity of a state. Its continuance, therefore, when unavoidable, is a misfortune—when otherwise, unjustifiable. I cannot but hope that

the gradual reduction of our debt, with a view to its early extinguishment, will be a leading feature in the policy of all who may be intrusted with the management of public affairs.

Among the means at hand for this object, my name the amount soon probably to be received from the General Government—which, saying as it is called, will be over a half a million of dollars. This sum, it is hoped, will be speedily devoted to the great object of reducing the public debt. It is true, but a small portion of the debt falls due the present year, and none in 1844—but it is not improbable that many persons holding stock redeemable at a future date would readily avail themselves of an opportunity to receive the amount before due. If not, the money to be received might be invested in stock of the United States, to be subsequently sold, and the proceeds appropriated to the payment of the public debt, as, from time to time, it should fall due.

In carrying out this policy, it will, of course, be necessary to continue the present tax of two hundred thousand dollars. The people, seeing it to be necessary, will bear it cheerfully. If it was fully to be undertaken to support government for a series of years without taxes, the sooner that fully is stated for, and we adopt a surer policy, the better. If it was impolitic to borrow near a quarter of a million of dollars to pay away in bonds a quarter of a million with others, must at some time be called upon to pay the very debt thus incurred, the sooner that payment is accomplished the better. Delay will aggravate, rather than cure the evil.

Let a tax then be assessed, which, in conjunction with the income to be derived from the tax on Banks, and with incidental receipts, shall be sufficient to meet the ordinary expenses of the Government and pay the interest on the public debt—let the whole amount to be received from the General Government, go towards the reduction of that debt—let all the net revenue hereafter to accrue from the public lands, be devoted to the same purpose—let there be the most rigid economy practised in every department of the Government—let all unnecessary drains upon the treasury be cut off—let there be no indulgence in wild speculations, nor engaging in fanciful schemes of "improvement," and the happy fruits of such a policy, I apprehend, would soon be apparent to all.

My recommendations of last year in regard to making the payment of costs, in criminal prosecutions a charge upon the respective counties in which they accrue, and the retaining in the treasury the amount of the tax on Banks; for the payment of the interest on the public debt or other purpose, I would most respectfully renew. The views then presented have gained strength, in my own mind, by time and further reflection.

The report of the Land Agent, which is herewith transmitted, will exhibit the particular condition of that department. The amount received by him during the past year, from all sources, is about \$36,000. This falls considerably short of what was anticipated; and so far as regards the amount due for previous sales of land and timber, the limited collections may be attributed to the depression of the lumbering business, and great scarcity of money. That the amount received for sales made during the year is small, is probably owing to the narrow limits prescribed to the Land Agent by the law upon this subject enacted at the last regular session, and to the terms of sale. I would respectfully call your attention to the suggestions of the Land Agent upon this subject. I am constrained to believe, that the change, in the system from granting permits to sell the land in mass sections, to that of selling the land itself in mass sections, and that for cash, was injudicious. Under the last system but few sales have been effected, and but a trifling revenue from that source can be expected hereafter. A sagacious individual would hardly expect to obtain the full value of property, by a forced sale at auction, requiring payment in cash. How can the public expect to succeed better in such a policy than individuals?

The timber upon the public lands is constantly exposed to danger from fire—and to preserve it from pillage, surrounded, as many of our timber townships are, by lands of Massachusetts, upon which operations are constantly going on, it is practically, will at least be attended with considerable expense. Would it not be better, therefore, that the restriction imposed by the law of the last session, be relaxed, so that permits be granted to an extent corresponding with the demands of business; and upon more liberal terms, taking care that the State be fully secured? The avails will probably be as valuable to us now, to aid in the reduction of the public debt, as they will be at any future period.

The suggestions of the Land Agent in regard to roads across unincorporated territory—the appointment of Commissioners to adjust settlers' claims for land, under the late treaty—to the expediency of appropriating a portion of the school fund, for the benefit of those who have just become subject to our jurisdiction and laws—and touching various other matters pertaining to his department, are highly worthy of your consideration; to which, I would respectfully commend them.

The report of the Adjutant General is herewith submitted. It is gratifying to perceive that an awakened spirit has manifested itself in regard to this truly republican institution on, in some parts of the State. I cherish the hope, that this spirit may spread until all shall more fully appreciate the importance of a citizen-soldier, and lend their efforts, not to ridicule and destroy it, but to maintain its honor and promote its efficiency and usefulness.

The law of the Revised Statutes which was suspended at the close of the last annual session, seems to meet with strong opposition from those who claim to be true friends of the militia. That it has serious defects, is obvious. And that much of the opposition to the law of 1834, arose from dissatisfaction with the whole militia system, I have no doubt. Whether, however, opinions among military men are so conflicting, I will do no more, at the present time, than commend the subject to your attention, with the hope, that you will so dispose of it, as to secure the good of the militia, and command general satisfaction.

I also lay before you reports made to the Governor and Council by the Directors and Superintendent of the Insane Hospital. Treating of matters so deeply interesting to the cause of humanity, and containing highly important suggestions and recommendations in reference to the interests of the insane institution, these reports cannot fail to secure your earnest consideration.

The committee appointed under Resolve of March 18, 1842, "to investigate the affairs and management of the Insane Hospital, and for other purposes," made a report to the Governor and Council in June last. Three hundred copies were immediately caused to be printed and distributed to the members of the Legislature, agreeably to the Order of the House of Representatives of May 27, 1842. A copy of the same is also herewith transmitted.

By a communication from the Secretary of the Treasury under date of November 3d, I have been informed, that under the Act of Congress appropriating the proceeds of the public lands, approved September 4th, 1841; the sum of \$175,543.20, is due to the State of Maine, which will be duly paid on the application of the authorized agent of the State.

In my address to the Legislature at the commencement of its last annual session, I endeavored to demonstrate, not only the unconstitutionality of the Act under which this distribution is made, but its gross injustice and inexpediency. The proceeds of the sales of the public lands, it appears to me, cannot fairly be distinguished from other monies in the Treasury, so far at least, as the power of Congress, in relation to their appropriation and use, is concerned—especially, as a large portion of the public lands now unsold, have been acquired by purchase and not by accession from the States. That the Act involved the power of taxation for the purpose of distribution, seems evident—a power, no where conferred in the Constitution.

The amount thus distributed being needed to defray the ordinary expenses of the Government, it is clear, that its abstraction from the Treasury cre-

